

DATE: October 15, 2018

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 10: Consideration of resolution approving: 1.) Proposition 68 Draft Guidelines, 2.) a 30-day public comment period, and 3.) Public Meetings throughout the RMC funding area

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC adopt a resolution approving: 1.) the RMC Proposition 68 draft Grant Guidelines, 2.) begin 30-day public comment period, and 3.) schedule of public meetings throughout the RMC funding area.

BACKGROUND: With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) in June 2018, the RMC is required to update and approve guidelines consistent with the Proposition 68 bond language. The last grant program framework was adopted by the RMC Board on September 28, 2015 (RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program).

Before disbursing grants pursuant to Proposition 68, the bond requires RMC to conduct three public meetings to consider public comments before finalizing the grant guidelines. RMC must publish the draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines on our website at least 30 days before the public meetings. RMC will hold three to four meetings in early November; RMC plans to hold a meeting in the San Gabriel Valley, a meeting in the Gateway Cities, a meeting in the Santa Clarita area, and a meeting in Orange County. RMC Staff will set up an email address to allow potential grantees and public at large to submit comments and questions.

Prior to having the grant workshops, RMC will engage cities within our territory to raise awareness of the upcoming Prop. 68 workshops, mostly through the San Gabriel Valley and Gateway Cities Council of Governments (CoG). RMC will provide email notice to our contact list regarding the grant comment period and upcoming public meetings.

Additionally, Prop. 68 funding allows for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. During previous grant guideline outreach, multiple themes emerged that highlighted both opportunities and challenges for applicants as they contemplated applying for bond funding, including: lack of staff capacity, readiness concerns, understanding the grant priorities, and the need for funding for planning and design phases. RMC will seek to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities in our jurisdiction and will be surveying to determine how an RMC technical assistance program could best support cities, agencies, and non-profits in applying for bond funds.

The following is the proposed grant timeline:

October 12	RMC Prop 68 draft Guidelines posted to RMC website
October 15	RMC Board approves Prop 68 draft Guidelines and schedule
October 20 – November 20	30-day comment period
November 13-20	RMC will host Prop. 68 grant workshops
November 26- December 7	Revisions to Guidelines
December 10	Submit guidelines to Natural Resources-Final Review

January 2019	Anticipated RMC Board approval of Prop. 68 Grant Guidelines
Anticipated February 1, 2019	Call for Projects

Upon approval of the Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines (anticipated at the January RMC Board meeting), RMC Staff will issue the official Call for Projects. Any grant applications submitted will be reviewed and scored according to the Project Evaluation Criteria. RMC staff made the determination that prior bond fund guidelines for Proposition 84, the most recent update in 2007, fit well as a model for framing Prop 68 Grant Guidelines. The 2007 Prop 84 guidelines can be found at: http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/update/RMC%20Grant%20Guidelines%202007_09_25.pdf.

The draft RMC Prop 68 Grant Guidelines will be posted on October 12th, 2018 on RMC's opening page at: <http://rmc.ca.gov/>

Funding: The grant program that will be implemented by the Conservancy will be using the \$37.5 million for the Lower Los Angeles River (Chapter 7) and \$30 million in direct allocation to the Conservancy (Chapter 8) from Proposition 68. It is anticipated that the funds will be spent within a five to seven year time frame.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. (Proposition 68) is codified Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's Proposition Grant Program Guidelines specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Chapter 7 of Proposition 68, entitled "California River Recreation, Creek and Waterway Improvement Program," allocates one hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$162,000,000) for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Thirty-seven million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) of the funds available in Chapter 7 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code and Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000).

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled "State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding," allocates one hundred and eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

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RESOLUTION 2018-21

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING 1)
PROPOSITION 68 DRAFT GUIDELINES, 2) 30-DAY COMMENT
PERIOD, AND 3) PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) is codified as Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code.; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program; and
WHEREAS, The RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Public Resources Code allocates thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in accordance with the governing statutes and specified purposes; and

WHEREAS, Section 80100(1)(b) of the Public Resources Code allocates thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects to protect or enhance and urban creek; and

WHEREAS, Section 80010 of the Public Resources Code requires adoption of guidelines prior to disbursing grants; and

WHEREAS, Section 80010(b) of the Public Resources Code requires public meetings to consider public comments prior to adoption of guidelines; and

This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

- 1 FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
- 2 FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan as adopted by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy;

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- 3 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 4 ADOPTS the staff report dated October 15, 2018 for this item.
- 5 AUTHORIZES the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Proposition 68 draft Grant Program Guidelines, to initiate the 30-day comment period, and host public meetings throughout the RMC funding area.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on October 15, 2018.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General